

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MISSOURI,

PRAYING THAT

Improvements may be made in the navigation of the Mississippi river; that an alteration be made in the Northern boundary line of that State; and that certain Indian lands be purchased by the United States, &c.

FEB. 19, 1829.—Referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States;

The General Assembly of the State of Missouri

REPRESENTS—

That since the Lead Mines on the Upper Mississippi have been so extensively and profitably worked, a very important trade has been carried on with the people engaged at those mines, by way of the Mississippi river. When that river is low, its navigation is greatly obstructed by the rapids that exist therein; insomuch, that at some periods steam-boats are wholly unable to ascend. These obstacles render this trade very inconvenient to the numerous interests engaged in it, and curtail much of the profits thereof. Believing that every facility should be afforded in aid of the internal communication of that country, and that the interests of the United States in those mines would be greatly enhanced by the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi river, this General Assembly suggests for the consideration of Congress, the propriety of appropriating the nett proceeds arising from the leasing of the mines aforesaid, to the clearing out of the rapids mentioned. This Legislature is advised, that the object in question might be easily accomplished at an expense comparatively small, and it is not doubted that the expense incurred would be more than counterbalanced by the immediate enhancement of the value of those mines, as well to the United States as to every individual concerned. The Legislature desires that immediate steps may be taken to cause a reconnoissance of those rapids to be made, to ascertain their extent, and the practicability of their removal, and that an appropriation may be made of the proceeds aforesaid to the accomplishing of this very desirable object. The great interest which the people of this State have in the trade and mines aforesaid, are the only justification which induces the Legislature to make these suggestions.

This Legislature will, moreover, urge upon the consideration of Congress, the propriety of altering the northern boundary line of the State of Mis-

souri, so as to attach to this State that part of the territory north, which would be comprised between the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers, and the extension of the northern boundary line to a point in the middle of the channel of said river, where that line would, if continued, strike the first mentioned river. This General Assembly would much prefer that the lands contained within the limits aforesaid, should be purchased by the United States of the half-breeds, who hold the title thereto; but if that be not done, it is hoped that this small section of country may be thrown within the jurisdiction of this State, and that the half-breeds mentioned may be permitted to dispose of their lands as to them may appear best calculated to promote their own interests.

JOHN THORNTON,
Speaker House of Representatives.

DANIEL DUNKLIN,
President of the Senate.

Approved: January 22d, 1829.
JOHN MILLER.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,
CITY OF JEFFERSON, Jan. 28th, 1829.

I, Priestley H. McBride, Secretary of State of the State of Missouri, do hereby certify, that the foregoing memorial to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, is truly and correctly transcribed from the original roll in my Office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office, the day and date above.

P. H. McBRIDE.